

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 DLOS-09 SS-15 SP-02 L-03
INT-05 PM-05 DODE-00 COME-00 EB-08 CG-00 DOTE-00
CEQ-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 IO-13 SSO-00
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-----018464 310432Z /13

O R 300530Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY SUVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7450
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY PORT MORESBY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
HICOMTERPACIS SAIPAN
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L SUVA 0893

HICOMTERPACIS FOR STATUS LNO

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EFIS, PLOS, FJ
SUBJECT: SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL FISHERIES AGENCY

REF: A) PORT MORESBY 0795, B) PORT MORESBY 787, C. SUVA 0873

1. FORTHCOMING SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS ON SPRFA (5 JUNE) WAS DISCUSSED WITH MAHE TUPOUNIUA, SPEC DIRECTOR, IN COURSE OF LUNCHEON FOR VISITING NOLVILE, FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICER DIRECTOR FOR FAR EASTERN AFFAIRS AND WITH R. GATES, SPEC DEPUTY DIRECTOR SEPARATELY. BOTH SPEC OFFICIALS WERE CAUTIOUS ABOUT PROSPECTS OF SUCCESS OF 5 JUNE MEETING WHICH THEY PREDICATED ON SUCCESS OF PROPOSED MINI-FORUM MEETING IN APIA 1 JUNE OR POSSIBILITY OF NARROWING THE GAP BETWEEN US AND PNG POSITIONS.

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2. WITH REGARD TO APIA MEETING SPEC DIRECTOR SAID THAT HE IS TAKING THE INITIATIVE TO CALL SUCH A MEETING SO AS TO PROVIDE THE NEEDED CATALYST FOR SUCH A GET TOGETHER. FHOWEVER, PNG PM'S ABSENCE IN APIA IS A MAJOR HANDICAP WHICH HE DID NOT SEE HOW IT COULD BE OVERCOME. HE VOLUNTEERED THE VIEW THAT THE CHANCES OF A DECISION IN FAVOR OF THE U.S. POSITION WILL BE GREATER IN APIA

THAN IN SUVA.

3. WITH REGARD TO SECOND CONDITION ABOVE I RAISED HYPOTHETICAL QUESTION OF US AND PNG GETTING TOGETHER PRIOR TO 5 JUNE MEETING. BOTH SPEC OFFICIALS REACTED MOST FAVORABLY AND URGED THAT AN EFFORT IN THIS DIRECTION BE MADE ASAP. ONE OF THEM VOLUNTEERED THE FOLLOWING LIST OF PNG DELEGATES TO 5 JUNE MEETING AND THE INFORMATION THAT THEY SHOULD BE ARRIVING IN SUVA SATURDAY 3 JUNE.

PNG DELEGATES ARE:

SUBUMEI, DEPT. SEC. FOREIGN AFFAIRS

MONG - ACTING PNG HIGH COMMISSIONER IN SUVA

LAVENDER - DEPT. LEGAL ADVISOR

P. WILSON - DIRECTOR, FISHERIES

B. SMITH - (NO TITLE)

D. ANDERSON - (NON TITLE)

4. I RESPONDED BY SURMISING THAT US DELEGATION WILL ALSO BE ARRIVING SATURDAY WHICH ALLOWS FOR US-PNG MEETING ON SUNDAY 4 JUNE. IF IT WOULD BE OF HELP I WOULD BE HAPPY TO HOST A LUNCHEON OR DINNER ON SUNDAY FOR THE US AND PNG DELEGATIONS.

5. WORTH NOTING THAT FOR THE FIRST TIME BOTH SPEC OFFICIALS INDICATED A NOTABLE DEGREE OF IMPATIENCE IF NOT MISGIVINGS WITH PNG POSITION AND ITS REAL INTENTIONS WITH REGARD TO SPFRA. RENEGING ON TWO TEXT PROPOSAL AND INFORMATION ABOUT TWO OR POSSIBLY THREE AGENCY OR COMMITTEE APPROACH THEY HAVE HEARD THE LAST FEW

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DAYS MADE THEM WONDER WHAT THE PNG'S REAL PURPOSE MIGHT BE. ONE OF THEM WENT SO FAR AS TO SUGGEST THAT HE LOOKS UPON AN ADVANCE US-PNG MEETING AS ONLY POSSIBLE MEANS NOT ONLY OF A SUCCESSFUL SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS, BUT ALSO OF FLISHING OUT PNG REAL INTENTIONS.

6. ONE SPEC OFFICIAL MENTIONED NZ PM MULDOON'S LETTER TO SPEC (REF C) AS HAVING SPELLED OUT THE CRUX OF ISSUE TO BE FACED BY THE 5 JUNE NEGOTIATORS NAMELY WHETHER THE SPRGA WILL HAVE REGULATORY FUNCTIONS OR SIMPLY RECOMMENDATORY WHICH IN FACT IMPLIES A VETO POWER BY EACH PARTICIPANT COUNTRY. (WE HAVE A QUESTION ON THIS: IS SUCH AN APPROACH ACCEPTABLE TO THE U.S. AND COMPATIBLE WITH U.S. DOMESTIC LEGISLATION CONCERNING COASTAL STATES SOVEREIGN RIGHTS WITH REGARD TO MIGRATORY SPECIES OF TUNA OR IS IT THAT THE U.S. POSITION FITS THE PROVERBIAL OF BETTER THAN NOTHING?)

7. SPEC OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO HOPE THAT PURPOSE OF 5 JUNE MEETING WILL REMAIN AS OUTLINED IN SPEC LETTER OF 12 MAY WHOSE OPERATING PARA WAS QUOTED IN SUVA'S 849, I.E. AGREEMENT ON A TEXT AD REFERENDUM TO RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS.
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